

Missouri 2006 WHIP Program Policies

The following is a summary of the 2006 conservation practices and components eligible for financial assistance through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in Missouri. Planned conservation practices must be maintained for the lifespan of the practice as indicated below or the length of the WHIP contract, whichever is longer. All practices must also meet the minimum criteria in the practice standard (see the Missouri eFOTG) and the criteria listed below. Extents above the minimum necessary to meet practice criteria are not eligible for additional payment.

Focus Areas – The Focus Areas include small portions of Adair, Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dade, Harrison, Jasper, Johnson, Pettis, St. Clair, and Sullivan Counties in Missouri. To qualify for Focus Area cost share rate, the majority of the offered acres must lie within the 7 mile radius boundary of the focus area. Maps of the Focus Areas are available at:

<http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/whip.html>

The WHIP applicant is responsible for the installation, use, and maintenance of all components required in the conservation management system.

Practice Code	Practice Unit	Conservation Practice	Cost-Share Rate		Method	Max. Cost Share \$	Lifespan
			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area			
327	Acre	Conservation Cover	50%	75%	AC		3 Years
1. This practice must be managed for wildlife habitat; only grasses, forbs, or legumes and associated mixtures rated as 60% or more as "good" or "excellent" and no species rated as "poor" for wildlife in Table 2 of the MO "Conservation Cover" conservation practice standard will be eligible for WHIP cost share. 2. Grazing is only allowed when required in an approved wildlife habitat management plan. 3. See the "Conservation Cover" conservation practice standard.							
342	Acre	Critical Area Planting	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. See the "Critical Area Planting" conservation practice standard.							
647	Acre	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	50%	75%	AC		15 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice for the maintenance of plant communities suitable for wildlife. 2. Treatment should result in 30% to 50% bare ground. This treatment is limited to 2 times per 5 year period on the same acres. 3. See the "Early Successional Development/Management" conservation practice standard.							
382	Feet	Fence	50%	75%	AC		20 Years
1. This practice is only authorized to exclude livestock from areas that need protection and/or control domestic livestock while permitting wildlife movement. 2. See the "Fence" conservation practice standard.							
386	Feet	Field Border	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. This practice must be managed for wildlife habitat; wildlife field borders (minimum 30 feet wide) consisting of herbaceous species rated as "good" to "excellent" for wildlife cover will be established according to the "Conservation Cover" conservation practice standard will be eligible for WHIP cost share. 2. See the "Field Border" conservation practice standard.							

Practice Code	Practice Unit	Conservation Practice	Cost-Share Rate		Method	Max. Cost Share \$	Lifespan
			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area			
393	Acre	Filter Strip	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice to restore, create, or enhance herbaceous habitat for wildlife. 2. The "Additional Criteria for Wildlife" in the practice standard must be used in conjunction with one of the other stated purposes in the "Filter Strip" conservation practice standard. 3. See "Critical Area Planting" for seeding the "Filter Strip". 4. See "Conservation Cover" for seeding the additional filter strip area for wildlife. Only those grasses, forbs, or legumes and associated mixtures containing 60% or more of species rated as "good" or "excellent" for wildlife as listed in Table 2 will be allowed. 5. See the "Filter Strip" conservation practice standard.							
490	Acre	Forest Site Preparation	50%	75%	AC		1 Year
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice for tree and shrub site preparation (natural regeneration or artificial establishment) methods (chemical, mechanical, slashing, or prescribed burning) and temporary cover. 2. See the "Forest Site Preparation" conservation practice standard.							
666	Acre	Forest Stand Improvement	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. Cost share is authorized in areas where thinning will be done with a wildlife component as the primary objective. 2. Encourage fuller crown development, earlier seed production, and heavier herbaceous plant development by reducing the stand to 60% stocking or less. 3. This practice is for wildlife habitat development and/or enhancement; it is not a timber production practice through WHIP. 4. Cut trees/trimmings can be piled or felled to create brushpiles. 5. See the "Forest Stand Improvement" conservation practice standard.							
		Activity	Basal Area (BA) Thinning				
		Light Thinning	20 - 30 BA				
		Medium Thinning	31 - 40 BA				
		Heavy Thinning	Greater than 40 BA				
655	Acre	Forest Trails and Landings	1/	1/	FR		5 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for the installation of forest harvest trails and landings and their re-vegetation with wildlife friendly grasses and legumes. 2. See the "Forest Trails and Landings" conservation practice standard.							
422	Feet	Hedgerow Planting	50%	75%	AC		15 Years
1. Cost share is authorized to establish wildlife travel lanes (linear plantings) that provide cover and food for wildlife and allow wildlife to move safely from one area to another. 2. See the "Hedgerow Planting" conservation practice standard.							

Practice Code	Practice Unit	Conservation Practice	Cost-Share Rate		Method	Max. Cost Share \$	Lifespan		
			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area					
441	Number & Acre	Irrigation Systems - Drip	50%	75%	AC		10 Years		
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice only for "Tree/Shrub Establishment" where supplemental water is needed to assure adequate survival and growth..									
2. Cost share is available for installing lateral line and appurtenances according to the practice standard.									
3. Cost share is available for the installation of mainlines, submains, and appurtenances according to the requirements of the “Irrigation Water Conveyance – High-pressure, Underground Plastic Pipeline” conservation practice standard.									
4. Cost share is not available for filtration, fertigation, and automated zone control units installed as part of the microirrigation system.									
5. See the “Irrigation System - Drip” conservation practice standard.									
516	Feet	Pipeline	50%	75%	AC		20 Years		
1. Cost share for this practice is only available as a component of “Riparian Forest Buffer” to provide livestock water on grazing lands where an alternate water supply is being developed.									
2. See the “Pipeline” conservation practice standard.									
338	Acre	Prescribed Burning				\$5,000 total per Contract	5 Years		
		By a Tech Reg Certified Party							
		Woodland	\$16.00	\$24.00	FR				
		Grassland	\$8.00	\$12.00					
		1. Cost share payment will be a flat rate as indicated above per acre burned when design, installation, and check-out are completed by a Tech Reg certified party.							
		By a Non-Certified Party							
		Woodland	\$12.00	\$16.00	FR				
		Grassland	\$6.00	\$8.00					
		1. Cost share payment will be a flat rate as indicated above per acre burned when practice is not completed by a Tech Reg certified party.							
		Patch Burn Grazing	\$3.00	\$4.00	FR				
		1. Patch Burn Grazing will be used to create a mosaic of heavily grazed and lightly grazed areas to provide a diverse vegetative structure and increase plant diversity in a grazing unit.							
		2. One third of the field will be burned each year.							
		3. A minimum of 30 acres are required for this practice to provide ample nesting cover for grassland birds.							
		4. Flat rate cost share will be paid on the entire acreage burned and managed for Patch Burn Grazing, not just the acres burned in a year. This cost share can not be earned on the same acres that earn the woodland or grassland cost share listed above.							
5. See the MO NRCS “Patch Burn Grazing” job sheet.									
		Permanent Fire Breaks	50%	75%	AC				
1. Cost share is authorized for Permanent Constructed Firebreaks (use of dozer, etc.) which may be required for prescribed burning in savanna, woodland, or glade restoration. This component is not available for any other habitat type.									
2. This is limited to a one time payment.									
1. See the “Prescribed Burning” conservation practice standard.									

Practice Code	Practice Unit	Conservation Practice	Cost-Share Rate		Method	Max. Cost Share \$	Lifespan
			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area			
643	Acre	Restoration and Mgmt of Declining Habitats 2/	75%	75%			15 Years
1. All component practices required for this practice will receive 75% cost share. 2. See the "Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat" conservation practice standard.							
391	Acre	Riparian Forest Buffer	50%	75%	AC		15 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice where livestock are excluded or have limited access to the stream. 2. Native trees and/or shrubs will be used as appropriate for the soil type. 3. Cost share for "Riparian Forest Buffer" and "Tree/Shrub Establishment" is not allowed on the same acres. 4. See the "Riparian Forest Buffer" conservation practice standard.							
578	Number	Stream Crossing	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. Cost share is only authorized as a component of the "Prescribed Grazing" or "Riparian Forest Buffer" conservation practices. 2. Cost share is limited to fencing, gravel, crushed stone, rip-rap rock, concrete, wood materials, geotextiles, and earth work to construct and protect stream crossings. 3. Stream crossings will be constructed at the same elevation as the channel bed. 4. Applicant will acquire all COE permits and wetland determinations before practice commencement. 5. Cost share is not available for bridges. 6. See the "Stream Crossing" conservation practice standard.							
580	Feet	Streambank and Shoreline Protection 3/	50%	75%	AC	\$15,000	20 Years
1. Only 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams are eligible for WHIP cost share. Fourth order and above are not eligible. 2. The maximum cost share available is \$15,000 per contract. 3. Establishment of a "Riparian Forest Buffer" in accordance with an approved design plan is required. 4. The problem must be effectively solved with relatively simple structural measures and/or vegetation to be eligible. 5. The project area must be within a definable stream reach that has a stable beginning and a stable ending point.							
6. Channels that have been altered by channelization or have had the natural floodplain width substantially restricted by levee systems are not eligible. 7. Streams or stream reaches that have been identified as "restricted" on the "Restricted and Priority Streams Map" are not eligible. 8. Streambank stabilization systems located where the failure of the components of the system would cause damage to or endanger utilities, roads, buildings, or other facilities and high value property adjacent to the project are not eligible. 9. All components of the streambank stabilization system must meet applicable NRCS standards and specifications. Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) design criteria will be used to design in-channel measures so long as the final design meets NRCS standards and specifications. 10. See the "Streambank and Shoreline Protection" conservation practice standard.							
587	Number	Structure for Water Control	50%	75%	AC	\$1,500 per Structure	20 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for water control structures and the establishment of permanent levees. Permanent levees must be established on all sides of the field with the exception of the crown to be eligible for cost share. 2. Flat graded fields must have permanent levees established on all sides of the field to be eligible for cost share. 3. See the "Structure for Water Control" conservation practice standard.							

Practice Code	Practice Unit	Conservation Practice	Cost-Share Rate		Method	Max. Cost Share \$	Lifespan
			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area			
612	Acre	Tree/Shrub Establishment	50%	75%	AC	4/	15 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for planting woody species, chemical or mechanical weed control measures for the first 5 years, tree shelters, weed barriers, root dips, fertilizer, and other animal damage control devices, fencing, and seedbed preparation where woody species are suited and needed for reforestation and forestation. 2. Woody species must benefit targeted wildlife species. 3. Cost share for container grown trees is limited to \$5000 per contract. 4. Cost share for "Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment" and "Tree/Shrub Establishment" is not allowed on the same acres. 5. Cost share for "Riparian Forest Buffer" and "Tree/Shrub Establishment" is not allowed on the same acres. 6. See the "Tree/Shrub Establishment" conservation practice standard.							
660	Acre	Tree and Shrub Pruning	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. Root pruning is not authorized for pruning adjacent (opposite) sides of linear plantings within a 3 year interval. 2. See the "Tree and Shrub Pruning" conservation practice standard.							
645	Acre	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management 5/	50%	75%	AC		1 Year
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice on all lands that are suitable for wildlife food and cover plants. 2. Undesirable Species Eradication - Chemical/mechanical methods will be used to eliminate undesirable species from an existing stand of wildlife friendly vegetation prior to reseeding/renovation with wildlife related cover. 3. Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment - To establish green browse areas. 4. Interseeding forbs or legumes into existing grass stands or native plant communities 5. Woody cover control - Associated with native grassland communities (such as prairies, savannas, or glades). Must meet the target plant community needs. Stumps must be chemically treated to prevent re-sprouting; cost share for stump treatment is limited to once per contract. May also include removing individual trees in areas inaccessible to mechanical removal. Native shrubs and vines will be preserved (or planted, as needed). Tree/trimmings will be piled and left for wildlife in areas that will not be burned. In the Loess Hills areas, both burning and chemical treatment are required for prairie restoration in conjunction with woody cover control. A) Light = Existing field less than 60% woody cover (savanna or glade) or less than 40% woody cover (prairie) B) Medium = Existing field 60-80% woody cover (savanna or glade) or 40-60% woody cover (prairie) C) Heavy = Existing field more than 80% wood cover (savanna or glade) or more than 60% woody cover (prairie)							
6. Woody Edge Development A) Fenceline/woody draw/woody edge renovation by removal of overstory trees. Native shrubs and vines will be preserved (or plantings made as needed) and tree/trimmings will be piled or felled in such a manner to create brushpiles/downed tree structures. B) A minimum of 30 feet will be developed/maintained as woody edge. C) If stump treatment is necessary, it is limited to one time per contract period. D) Cost share can be used to eradicate undesirable species in the woody edge development. E) Mechanical treatment refers to the use of a dozer, "Kansas" clipper, etc. F) Downed tree structure cost share can not be combined with woody edge development.							

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			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area			
7. <u>Nesting Structures</u> - must be built and placed according to recommendations of a wildlife biologist.							
8. <u>Permanent Forest Openings</u> - Can be used to establish permanent woodland openings in wooded tracts. The end result is complete removal of the canopy cover to a basal area of zero. Stumps must be chemically treated to prevent re-sprouting. Cost share for stump treatment is limited to once per contract. Maximum is 3 acres per 40 acres of contiguous forest cover.							
Light Removal = Existing stand is less than 50% stocked.							
Medium Removal = Existing stand is 50% to 80% stocked.							
Heavy Removal = Existing stand is more than 80% stocked.							
9. <u>Bob White Quail Covey Headquarters</u>							
A. Small shrub seedlings planted in a 30 ft. X 50 ft. area (minimum size is 1,500 square feet).							
B. Use no weed mat to encourage spreading of the shrubs.							
C. Herbaceous vegetation control is required.							
D. See conservation practice "Tree and Shrub Establishment"							
E. Container grown shrubs - Use 7 X 7 spacing. Bareroot shrubs - use a 5 x 5 spacing.							
F. Species to plant – gray dogwood, rough leaf dogwood, blackberry, fragrant sumac, American plum, Chickasaw plum, hazelnut, false indigo bush, elderberry, chokeberry, shrub lespedeza, and nannyberry. Other species can be approved for use by the NRCS or MDC wildlife planner.							
10. <u>Downed Tree Structure</u>							
A. Place downed trees (minimum 20' height and well branched) in and around shrub plantings or food plots.							
B. Must have a minimum of 3 downed trees per structure.							
C. Oak, hickory, and/or cedar are recommended.							
D. Downed tree structures are to be placed on bare ground or on areas where herbaceous vegetation is controlled (this includes site preparation, chemicals, downed tree placement, etc.)							
E. Downed Tree Structure cost share can not be combined with Woody Edge cost share.							
11. <u>Container Grown Prairie Cordgrass</u>							
A. Use of this component will be determined by soil and site conditions.							
B. Cost share includes seedbed preparation and plants.							
C. Plant 220 plants per acre, using a 1 gallon container plant split into fourths. This requires 55 one-gallon containers per acre.							
614	Number	Watering Facility	50%	75%	AC		10 Years
1. Cost share is only authorized for this practice as a component of "Riparian Forest Buffer" to provide alternate watering facilities for livestock.							
2. See the "Watering Facility" conservation practice standard.							
351	Number	Well Decommissioning	50%	75%	AC		20 Years
1. See the "Well Decommissioning" conservation practice standard.							

Practice Code	Practice Unit	Conservation Practice	Cost-Share Rate		Method	Max. Cost Share \$	Lifespan
			Non-Focus Area	Focus Area			
644	Acre	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	50%	75%	FR		1 Year
1. Cost share is authorized for components required by an approved Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management Plan on wetlands and areas where wetlands will be created, restored, or enhanced. 2. See the "Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management" conservation practice standard.							
648	Number	Wildlife Watering Facility	50%	75%	AC		5 Years
1. See the "Wildlife Watering Facility" conservation practice standard.							
380	Feet	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	50%	75%	AC		15 Years
1. Cost share is authorized for this practice when the design and plant species selection benefit targeted wildlife species. 2. The windbreak must have a minimum of 3 rows. 3. All plantings must be protected from grazing and destructive fire. 4. Weed control is required. 5. Cost share for "Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment" and "Tree/Shrub Establishment" is not allowed on the same acres. 6. See the "Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment" conservation practice standard.							
1/	\$500 for the first 20 acres of forest, then \$15 for each additional acre of forest.						
2/	All component practices required for this conservation practice will receive 75% cost share.						
3/	ONLY 1st, 2nd, or 3rd order streams are eligible for EQIP assistance. Fourth order streams and larger are NOT eligible.						
4/	Cost share is limited to \$5000 per contract for container grown trees.						
5/	Cost share is 50% except specific practices identified for flat rate cost share in the Program Policies.						
AC	Average Cost						
FR	Flat Rate						
BF	Beginning Farmer						
LRF	Limited Resource Farmer						
NLRF	Non-Limited Resource Farmer						
WHAG	Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide						